

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 NIC-01 AID-20 PC-04

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R 111220Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2301

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 149

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, MZ

SUBJECT: LATEST FRELIMO ATTACK ON VILLAGE

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. PRESS OF JANUARY 10 CARRIES ITEM DESCRIBING UNUSUALLY HEAVY FRELIMO ATTACK ON NHACAMBO VILLAGE ABOUT 80 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF TETE CITY. ARTICLE REPORTED THAT AT ABOUT 2015 HOURS JANUARY 6 ABOUT 60 HEAVILY ARMED GUERRILLAS RUSHED ON VILLAGE KILLING AT LEAST 17 CIVILIANS INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN, WOUNDING UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF OTHERS, DESTROYING 160 HUTS AND STEALING RADIOS, MONEY, CLOTHING AND FOOD. ONLY 26 HUTS REMAINED INTACT. ATTACK LASTED ABOUT 5 HOURS. VILLAGE POPULATION FLED AND HID IN BUSH AND ABOUT 300 OF ORIGINAL 500 INHABITANTS HAVE NOW RETURNED. PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES INCLUDING ATTACHMENT OF

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15 GE'S ARRIVED AT 0800 HOURS NEXT MORNING. REPORT INDICATED

THAT THE FRELIMO ATTACK WAS LED BY FERNANDO NAPULULA, A MACONDE AND MILITARY LEADER OF FRELIMO IN THIS ZONE. NAPULULA IS BROTHER OF JANUARIO NAPULULA, EX-COMMANDER OF THE SO-CALLED FRELIMO THIRD SECTOR IN CABO DELGADO, WHO IS NOW WORKING WITH PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES IN NAMPULA.

2. PRESS OF JANUARY 11 FOLLOWED UP WITH PICTURES OF DEAD, WOUNDED, SURVIVORS AND DESTROYED HUTS, IN WHAT APPARENTLY WILL BE MAJOR PROPAGANDA UTILIZATION OF INCIDENT, WHICH SEEMS PROVIDENTIALLY TIMED TO PROVIDE PORTUGUESE WITH CONVENIENT ANSWER TO BOOK RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY FATHER HASTINGS REVIVING ALLEGED WIRIYAMU MASSACRE IN ALL ITS GORY DETAILS.

3. PURSUIT ACTIVITIES ARE CONTINUING, BUT WITH NO PUBLISHED RESULTS AS YET.

4. MILITARY SPOKESMAN INFORMED US THAT NHACAMBO INCIDENT IS MOST VIOLENT THUS FAR PERPETRATED BY FRELIMO GUERRILLAS IN TETE AREA. HE SAID COMMANDER OF LOCAL MILITIA FORCE REPORTED THAT FEROCITY OF ATTACK AND WILD CONDUCT STRONGLY SUGGESTED ATTACKERS UNDER INFLUENCE OF DRUGS. HE ADDED THAT PRESS REPORTS IF ANYTHING UNDERSTATED THE EVENT AS ABOUT 200 GUERRILLAS WERE INVOLVED, ARMED WITH MORTARS, AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. KILLED AT LEAST 30 AND WOUNDED ANOTHER 30, ALTHOUGH GUERRILLAS PURSUED FLEEING VILLAGERS FAR INTO BUSH AND ACCURATE COUNT OF CASUALTIES NOT YET POSSIBLE. MILITIA RESISTED FOR ABOUT AN HOUR, BUT WERE SIMPLY OVERWHELMED.

5. COMMENT: ABOVE INDICATIVE OF SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN INTENSITY OF ATTACKS ON ALDEAMENTOS IN TETE IN RECENT DAYS. (MILITARY ALSO REPORT DECEMBER 31 ATTACK ON TEMANGO VILLAGE NEAR CHANGARA, ABOUT 100 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF TETE, IN WHICH 29 VILLAGERS WERE KIDNAPPED, OF WHOM 12, INCLUDING FIVE WOMEN AND FOUR CHILDREN, WERE SUBSEQUENTLY KILLED. ON JANUARY 6 IN ATTACK ON MANJANJE NEAR FURANCUNGO, FRELIMO KILLED 6 AND WOUNDED 4 VILLAGERS.) AS ALDEAMENTOS ARE USUALLY DEFENDED BY ABOUT 20 LOCAL MILITIA, SOMETIMES COMMANDED BY SINGLE POLICE OFFICER, THEY ARE HARDLY ABLE WITHSTAND ATTACKS BY STRONG FRELIMO FORCE SUCH AS THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVOLVED IN NHANCAMBO. PORTUGUESE WILL HAVE TO DEVISE MORE EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF DEFENDING ALDEAMENTOS AGAINST SUCH ATTACKS, IF THEY ARE TO AVOID DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON MORALE OF POPULACE WHICH COULD SIGNIFICANTLY SET BACK RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM.
VAN OSS

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